

**REMARKS:**

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-27 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):**

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,269,336 (Ladd) and U.S. Patent No. 6,801,604 (Maes) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,535 (Hedin).

Ladd does not teach or suggest, “augmenting the speech recognition system by providing an augmenting grammar set supplied by a first speech recognizer of a portal to a second speech recognizer” and “notifying the portal in response to an input which corresponds to the augmenting grammar set”, as recited for example in claim 1.

Instead, Ladd is directed to a centralized speech processing by the electronic network, where a user calls into the electronic network and the electronic network processes speech communications, DTMF tones, pages, and messages from the user (see, col. 8, lines 3-11). Meaning, the changes to the personalities and grammars discussed at col. 4, lines 32-35 of Ladd and speech inputs (calls) from users are handled or controlled by the electronic network.

Even assuming arguendo that Ladd does disclose the “augmenting the speech recognition system” and “notifying the portal in response to an input which corresponds to the augmenting grammar set responsive to speech recognition executed via the second speech recognizer, as recited in claim 1, it is submit that Ladd does not teach or suggest augmenting a recognizer with a grammar set from another recognizer and notifying the other recognizer of input based on speech recognition by the augmented recognizer, as taught by the claimed invention.

As discussed above, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Ladd. Further, as Maes merely discusses transferring input utterances only when the input requires complex speech recognition (i.e., performance based) (see, col. 4, lines 42-62), Maes does not cure the deficiencies of Ladd regarding claim 1 of the present application.

In particular, Maes does not teach or suggest the claimed notifying the portal in response to an input corresponding to the augmenting grammar set “responsive to speech recognition executed via the second speech recognizer independent of the portal”, as taught by claim 1.

The Examiner acknowledges that the combination of Ladd and Maes does not explicitly teach transferring control to the second recognizer independent of the portal, but relies on Hedin as teaching the same.

Hedin does not teach or suggest “transferring control over user interaction to the second speech recognizer independent of the portal”, as recited in claim 1. Instead, Hedin discusses a system which runs in a terminal (“cell phone”), where if the recognizer of the terminal doesn't recognize a word the audio is sent to the more powerful remote recognizer (see Abstract, “unrecognized portions of the audio input may be encoded and forwarded to the remote application part...”).

However, in contrast to the claimed invention of “transferring control to the second recognizer independent of the portal”, every time the user says something in Hedin, the terminal first checks to see if it should be recognized locally (see, Fig. 4 including corresponding text). Hedin does not teach the claimed “transfer”, since each speech goes through the terminal part (TP) and is only forwarded to the more powerful ASR if not recognized by the terminal.

Ladd, Maes and Hedin, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above mentioned features of the independent claims.

As indicated below, each of the other independent claims also recite at least one of the above-identified patentable features of claim 1.

Independent claim 8 recites, “a portal having a first speech recognizer” and “an application server having a second speech recognizer to receive an augmenting grammar set transmitted from the first speech recognizer of the portal, the application server controlling user interaction.” Claim 8 further recites, “transferring control over the user interaction to the portal” to perform “subsequent speech recognition at the portal.” Independent claim 20 recites similar features.

Independent claim 17 recites, “transmitting an augmenting grammar set of the first speech recognizer from the portal to the remote application server.” Claim 17 further recites, “transferring control of the call including user interaction to the remote application server” and when an input during the call is determined to correspond to the grammar set “in accordance with speech recognition executed via the second speech recognizer”, control over the call “including the user interaction” is transferred back to the portal.

Claim 25 recites, “switching control of the caller interaction from the application server to the portal responsive to detection of an input corresponding to the grammar set via the second

speech recognizer of the application server." As such, "subsequent speech recognition" is performed "at the portal."

Independent claim 26 also recites, "returning control of the call back to the portal subsequent to determining that said input corresponds to the transferred grammar set..." and performs "subsequent speech recognition related to interaction with a caller at the portal."

Claim 27 has been added to recite, "determining an input from a caller matches a grammar set supplied by a portal, said determining being during interaction of the caller controlled by an application server independent of voice recognition by the portal." Claim 27 further recites, "implementing subsequent voice recognition via the portal by controlling interaction of the caller using the portal responsive to said determining."

Claims depending from the independent and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not disclosed by the cited references.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY:**

As discussed above, each of the independent claims are allowable over the cited references, and therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the finality of the rejection and withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

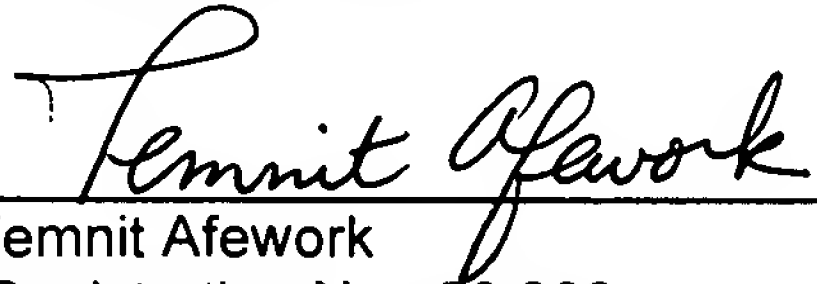
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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